

GLOBALLINK



Giving Hope Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

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A new vehicle is presented to the Jim Jacobsen Centre in Papua New Guinea.

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Kathy Nguyen

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

— Matthew 25:40 (NIV)



Special occasions, family celebrations and holidays are times when family and friends get together to bask in food, laughs, memories and gifts. While celebrating love and togetherness is a universal language for most, these occasions may look different for many families around the world. While one family enjoys a hearty festive meal, another may be going to bed with empty stomachs. While one child relishes in the joy of opening gifts, another may be wondering when they will get to play.

The Salvation Army Gifts of Hope ethical giving program offers a variety of gift items that make a lasting difference in the lives of others. With gifts ranging from mosquito nets, to bicycles or adult literacy, each item has been carefully chosen to complement the international work of The Salvation Army.

Here’s how your gifts in action have made a difference:

Hope Through Farming:

In Mozambique, The Salvation Army provides livestock and agriculture trainings for families across three rural communities. The simple gift of a goat has the power to provide food security and livelihood development for generations to come. Thanks to you, many families are building sustainable income and bringing their children to school for the first time.

Hope through Education:

In Sri Lanka, Chameli, a widow raising two teenagers, was gifted a sewing machine and fabric. She learned how to use her machine and

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“Unity is strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

— Mattie Stephanick

As we approach Christmas, our thoughts turn to peace and unity as we hear the various carols so familiar to us. Sadly, in many communities around the world, racial injustice, economic disparity, food insecurity and other social injustices have brought about devastating disunity and division. Such a dismal reality for so many people begs the imperative cry for us to come together to work toward the common good for all. A Swahili proverb reminds us that “unity is strength, division is weakness.”

Today, The Salvation Army marches on, faithfully working in more than 400 communities in Canada and 131 countries worldwide. We are called to reach out to others in our communities, to rally the troops and work together in the beauty of unity. This year has been no exception.

We hope you will enjoy reading the inspirational accounts of how your generosity is uniting people and bringing positive change in communities beyond our borders.

Now is the time for unity!

Sincerely,

Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray
Director of International Development

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is the sole breadwinner for her children and in-laws. With donations to Gifts of Hope, she was provided with the resources and learning opportunities to provide for her family. Without The Salvation Army offering assistance in her desperate time of need, she would have had little options for income-generation.

Hope Through Health:

In Haiti, your gifts towards health allowed The Salvation Army to support a COVID-19 prevention campaign. With your help, we built a water reservoir in Couyot, a remote village in Haiti, where community members could wash their hands. We also provided hygiene and sanitation materials, followed by training sessions on good hygiene practices. Your financial support to international health initiatives could mean the difference between life and death.



Hope Through Communities:

In Papua New Guinea, the Jim Jacobsen Centre provides a safe house for women experiencing domestic abuse and offers counselling, health services and transportation to persons suffering from HIV. With your contribution to transportation overseas, we purchased a new vehicle for the centre so that they could continue their essential services.

These stories are just a few from many. There are more stories left to be told, and more waiting to be written. Let's work together this holiday season to give vulnerable individuals and communities gifts that make a real impact.

To give the gift of hope this Christmas, please visit SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope

KENYA STRONG

By Kathy Nguyen

The Salvation Army (TSA) has been investing in maternal and child health across hospitals, clinics and health awareness programs worldwide. With COVID-19 bringing unparalleled delays to international programs, it was imperative that health-related initiatives endured through changing times. With the backing of our working partnerships, donor base, and local and overseas projects' team, we made sure essential health services and clinics remained stocked and ready to serve.

While COVID-19 caused shipment delays for the entire world, we're proud to announce that in partnership with Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), we worked together to successfully deliver a shipment of 100 mother and child health kits in Kenya, supporting more than 2,000 mothers in need.

These kits include medicine, supplements and prenatal vitamins; newborn kits with blankets, clothing, soap and shampoos, and



TSA/HPIC-branded backpacks stocked with essential equipment, including stethoscopes, weighing scales, blood pressure monitors and thermometers.

In conjunction with our mother and child health kits, our project also integrates health education and livelihood development to further empower and mobilize the community. Some workshops may be health-related, while others may be focused on agriculture.

By following strict health and safety protocols, we are happy to report that our trainings are back in session.

Together, we can help families celebrate the holidays in good health and spirits. Thank you for your prayerful and practical assistance.



CARING FOR CHINA'S MOST VULNERABLE

By Kathy Nguyen

The Salvation Army works in all corners of the world, demonstrating compassion and love in action to those who need it most.

Yunnan is one of the most impoverished provinces in China, with nearly 15 million people living below the poverty line. Tucked in the city of Xuanwei, Luoshui Township Junior High School is a boarding school that teaches and accommodates more than 1,400 students. More than half of the students come from underprivileged or abandoned households as identified and confirmed by government officials.

With support from our Brighter Futures children's sponsorship program, The Salvation Army is investing in the lives of vulnerable children and youth by providing practical learning experiences and upgraded school facilities.

We equipped this formative school with new bunk beds, desks, lockers, shower rooms and a hot-water supply. Along with the improved facilities, skilled educators held training seminars on health education and HIV-AIDS awareness and prevention.

"The seminar on basic knowledge of health and HIV-AIDS opened the minds of conservative teachers and students," says Heidi Chan, administrative officer at The Salvation Army in the Hong Kong and Macau Command. "We trust that this will minimize the risk of health-related issues in the community."

With your support to children's sponsorship, students around the world are thriving with new school equipment, resources and programs. Thank you for bringing practical help and hope to those who need it most.



To learn more about the Brighter Futures children's sponsorship program, please visit SalvationArmy.ca/brighterfutures



FINDING BEAUTY IN UNITY

By Kathy Nguyen

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

— Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

In 2018, The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda financially supported the construction of the Baongo Vocational Training Centre in Congo-Brazzaville, a school where vulnerable and at-risk women congregate to learn valuable vocational skills.

As the years go on, this centre continues to transform lives, producing leaders and successful alumni from various communities across the country. Some graduates have moved on to work in hair and beauty salons or tailor shops, while others start their own businesses.

"This school has become a life-changing vicinity for single mothers and vulnerable women," says Eric Baudrey, community projects facilitator for The Salvation Army in Congo-Brazzaville. "Our students are actively working, and the Army has become highly regarded by the community members and local authorities because of it."

During one of the trainings, three students came together and realized they had more in common than just their classes. They realized they also shared similar stories, hopes and aspirations.

"These women shared similar backgrounds," Eric says. "Some are young, single mothers, while others are orphans. They formed a friendship and realized that they were stronger when working together."

As a result, they started their own hair and beauty salon. Like many graduates of our programs, they earned their self-sufficiency.

When women are active participants in their education and decision-making, development programs are more likely to succeed. When they unite, work together and build each other up, the entire community thrives.



Small businesses like this were made possible thanks to your unyielding support to our international work. Your faithful generosity helps empower women, build female-led businesses and fuel lasting networks in some of the most vulnerable parts of the world. Thank you!



THE SALVATION ARMY MARCHES ON

By Robyn Goodyear

I recently attended a virtual conference where I heard somebody say, “COVID-19 revealed the fragility of humanity and society by exposing all of our flaws and imperfections.” While that may be true, I think it’s also shown our resiliency and ability to adapt and innovate. When the wave turns, you need to swim with the current to stay afloat. For The Salvation Army worldwide, that means respecting government restrictions in the countries where we work, while also adapting our methods in ways we haven’t seen before.

As international project support co-ordinator, I work closely with our children’s sponsorship and community development programs. I am continuously impressed with the hard work and resilience of those working on the ground to ensure our international programs stay afloat.

After-School Programs

In São Paulo, Vila dos Pecadores, our after-school program, which serves more than 150 families each year through classes, tutoring and recreational activities, was forced to suspend all face-to-face activities.

I’m happy to report that dedicated teachers and staff are continuing to give lessons online and are delivering educational resources and basic food parcels to our students’ homes.

Group Therapy Programs

In Argentina, our “United Towards a Change and Learning Through Playing” program provides group therapy sessions for women who have experienced abuse, as well as conflict-resolution training through play and recreational activities, for children who come from abusive households.

Trained counsellors and social workers are working diligently to stay connected with beneficiaries through virtual group therapy sessions. The local Salvation Army is also delivering educational and recreational materials to families in lockdown.

Children’s Homes

In Bolivia, while schools remain closed, The Salvation Army is providing the Evangelina Booth Girls’ Home with the necessary equipment for the girls to continue their education virtually.

And while COVID-19 has added fuel to a growing hunger crisis in many developing countries, our feeding programs ensure the children who stay with us will never have to worry about missed meals.

In many ways, the pandemic has felt like a period of waiting and cancelled plans. For Salvation Army ministries around the world, it has been a time of adjustment and action. Thank you to our donors who continue to support our programs worldwide. While at times it may seem like the world is on a “pandemic pause,” your support ensures the Army marches on.



THE SALVATION ARMY Gifts of Hope

BEING ABLE TO READ AND WRITE OPENS UP A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES.

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS.

To make a difference, visit: SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope